**Lesley University hosts veterans-focused Arts in Healthcare Conference Nov. 17

*‘Working with Veterans and Active-Duty Military through the Arts,’ tackles issues of PTSD, traumatic brain injury treatments***

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. —** Lesley University’s ninth annual Arts in Healthcare Conference is focused on how the arts can be used to promote healing for veterans and active-duty members of the armed forces.

The conference includes talks by industry leaders, workshops and other activities, which will allow participants to delve deeper into the exploration of how visual art, narrative, mindfulness, martial arts, song, and drama can physically and psychologically treat the wounds of war and conflict.

The Arts in Healthcare Conference runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 17, in Washburn Auditorium, Brattle Campus (10 Phillips Place, Cambridge). To register, contact Beth Tallett at etallett@lesley.edu; $15 for all students and veterans and $45 for the public. (An optional 6 CE Hours for LMHC’s and NCC’s are available for an additional $25.)

The keynote address, “Art Therapy for Service Members with Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress: Programming, Research and Expansion Efforts,” will be presented by distinguished art therapist **Melissa Walker**, who worked at Walter Reed’s inpatient psychiatric unit before transferring to the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, which has gained international recognition for the integration and research of the creative arts in health as highlighted in a National Geographic Magazine cover story and Melissa's "talk of the day" TEDMED talk.

Other concurrent workshop presenters include:

* **Anne Black, PhD**, Founding Director of The Warrior Connection (<https://www.warriorconnection.org/>)
* **Nadene E. Stillings, LMHC-ATR**, Art Therapist and Outpatient Recreation Therapy Coordinator for Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, Bedford ([https://www.bedford.va.gov/)](https://www.bedford.va.gov/%29) and alumna of Lesley University,
* **Susan Nathan, MD,** Geriatrician and Hospice and Palliative Medicine physician at VA Boston Healthcare System (https://www.boston.va.gov/services/Geriatrics\_Clinic.asp), Instructor in Medicine at Harvard Medical School and an Adjunct Instructor of Medicine at Boston University School of Medicine
* **Suzanne Rancourt**, EXAT, MS, MFA, CAGS, CASAC, AWA. USMC and US Army Veteran, Author, Songwriter and Teacher (<http://www.expressive-arts.com/>)
* **Frances G. Welson**, CAGS, MEd, President of Keganin No Senshi Aikido (KNSA) (<http://www.keganinnosenshi.org> )
* **Naj Wikoff**, Founder and President of the Creative Healing Connections (<http://www.creativehealingconnections.org)>, Author, former Director of the Healing and the Arts Project of the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth College, and a President Emeritus of the Society for the Arts in Healthcare.
* **Brian Costa**, NMT/F, MT-BC, Neurologic Music Therapy Fellow at MedRhythms ([http://medrhythmstherapy.com/)](http://medrhythmstherapy.com/%29) and alumnus of Lesley University
* **Jason Butler, PhD**, Associate Professor of Drama Therapy at Lesley University and President of the North American Drama Therapy Association

[*Lesley University*](http://lesley.edu) *empowers students to become dynamic, thoughtful leaders in education, mental health counseling and the arts. Located in the heart of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Lesley combines an intensely creative environment with the practical experience students need to succeed in their careers. Each year, over 7,000 students pursue degrees on campus, regionally, online, and through our low-residency programs. Along with our 87,000 alumni, they are discovering the power of creativity to overcome obstacles, foster connections, and reveal fresh answers to the world’s problems.*